

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENTI 00924 110430Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 EB-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00

AGR-05 ABF-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /086 W

-----110920Z 032757 /10

R 110400Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8217

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL UDORN

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 0924

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM SREF PINS SOCI LA

SUBJECT: SEMINAR INSTRUCTION NOTES CURRENT PROBLEMS

REF: VIENTIANE 0900

1. AT A GOVERNMENT ORGANIZED "SEMINAR" JUNE 8 FOR RESIDENTS OF SISATANAK, ONE OF VIENTIANE'S FOUR QUARTERS, LOCAL AUTHORITIES REPORTEDLY NOTED NUMEROUS PROBLEMS FACING THE LPDR, HIGHLIGHTING SPECIFICALLY:

A) INCREASING NUMBERS OF REFUGEES ("REACTIONARY TRAITORS") ARE FLEEING TO THAILAND. IN MAY, 120 RESIDENTS OF SISATANAK LEFT THEIR HOMES FOR THAILAND. AN ADDITIONAL NUMBER TRIED TO LEAVE BUT WERE APPREHENDED. (SISATANAK HAS A POPULATION OF APPROXIMATELY 16,000, ACCORDING TO GOVERNMENT FIGURES.)

B) "REACTIONARIES" CONTINUE TO HARASS THE LPDR

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PAGE 02 VIENTI 00924 110430Z

AUTHORITIES. AT THE END OF MAY "PATRIOTIC FORCES" ENGAGED "LAO REACTIONARIES" AT NAM KIENG, 19 KILOMETERS NORTH NORTHWEST OF VIENTIANE, RESULTING IN CASUALTIES ON BOTH SIDES.

C) THE "REVOLUTION" IS REPORTEDLY BECOMING "SOILED" BY CRIMINALS. THE GOVERNMENT HAS THEREFORE INSTITUTED A NEW CODE WHEREBY THE FOLLOWING PUNISHMENTS WILL BE

METED OUT FOR SPECIFIC CRIMES: THOSE GUILTY OF THEFTS OVER 100,000 KIP (APPROXIMATELY \$63.00 ON THE FREE MARKET) WILL BE EXECUTED. PETTY THIEVES (THEFT UP TO 15,000 KIP) AND PROSTITUTES WILL BE WARNED AT THE FIRST OFFENSE AND PUT TO HARD LABOR FOR FROM FIFTEEN TO THIRTY DAYS AT THE SECOND OFFENSE.

2. QUARTER AUTHORITIES REPORTEDLY BLAMED THE REFUGEE EXODUS, "REACTIONARY" RESISTANCE AND RISING CRIME RATE ON INCREASINGLY EFFECTIVE "REACTIONARY" PROPAGANDA.

3. COMMENT: IN VIENTIANE THE FLOW OF FOREIGN CURRENCY INTO THE LOCAL ECONOMY FROM THE DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY IS SIGNIFICANT AND COMMUNIST SOCIAL ORGANIZATION ADVANCED. IN ADDITION, GOODS AND SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE GOVERNMENT ARE MORE READILY AVAILABLE THAN IN OTHER PARTS OF LAOS. NEVERTHELESS, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DECAY CONTINUE AS RESIDENTS, AWARE OF THE REDUCED STANDARD OF LIVING AND RESTRICTED FREEDOM USHERED IN BY THE "REVOLUTION", REMAIN DISILLUSIONED AND RESENTFUL.

MCWILLIAMS

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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